

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Higher Education Funding Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-18.1 and a new section to  
2 chapter 15-20.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to postsecondary educational  
3 institution and postsecondary career school course and program compliance with professional  
4 registration and certification requirements; and to amend and reenact sections 15-18.1-05 and  
5 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to minimum standards to operate  
6 postsecondary education institutions and postsecondary career schools.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-18.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **15-18.1-05. Minimum standards.**

11 All postsecondary educational institutions must be accredited by national or regional  
12 accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The board may  
13 additionally require such further evidence and make such further investigation as in its judgment  
14 may be necessary. Any postsecondary educational institution operating in this state seeking its  
15 first authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an annual  
16 basis until the institution becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency.  
17 Institutions issued a provisional authorization to operate must demonstrate a substantial  
18 good-faith showing of progress toward such status. Only upon accreditation may an institution  
19 become eligible for a regular authorization to operate. An institution shall notify the board within  
20 thirty days of any change to the institution's accreditation status.

21 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15-18.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
22 and enacted as follows:

1        **Compliance with professional board registration and certification requirements.**

2        A postsecondary educational institution shall notify potential students applying for  
3 enrollment in a course or program that customarily leads to professional registration or  
4 certification of the status of the course or program compliance with the registration or  
5 certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state. A postsecondary  
6 educational institution shall notify all students enrolled in a program or course that customarily  
7 leads to professional registration or certification of any change in the status of the course or  
8 program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the appropriate  
9 professional board in the state.

10        **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12        **15-20.4-04. Minimum standards - Exceptions.**

13        1. All postsecondary career schools must be accredited by national or regional  
14 accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The  
15 board may additionally require such further evidence and make such further  
16 investigation as in its judgment may be necessary. Any postsecondary career school  
17 operating in this state seeking its first authorization to operate may be issued a  
18 provisional authorization to operate on an annual basis until the school becomes  
19 eligible for accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency. Schools issued a  
20 provisional authorization to operate must demonstrate a substantial good-faith  
21 showing of progress toward such status. Only upon accreditation shall a school  
22 become eligible for a regular authorization to operate. A school shall notify the board  
23 within thirty days of any change to the school's accreditation status.

24        2. This section does not apply to postsecondary career schools operating in this state  
25 that do not grant degrees and that offer mainly hands-on training in low census  
26 occupations, as determined by the board. "Degree" as used in this subsection means  
27 a document that provides evidence or demonstrates completion of a course of  
28 instruction that results in the attainment of a rank or level of associate or higher.

29        **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 15-20.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
30 and enacted as follows:

1        **Compliance with professional board registration and certification requirements.**

2        A postsecondary career school shall notify potential students applying for enrollment in a  
3 course or program that customarily leads to professional registration or certification of the status  
4 of the course or program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the  
5 appropriate professional board in the state. A postsecondary career school shall notify all  
6 students enrolled in a program or course that customarily leads to professional registration or  
7 certification of any change in the status of the course or program compliance with the  
8 registration or certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state.